



## Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 26 August 2008

Current Nationwide  
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)  
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- According to the Sunday Herald, an international criminal gang has stolen the identities of an estimated eight million people in a hacking raid on the Best Western Hotel group's online booking system. (See item [14](#))
- KNSD 7 San Diego reports that an area code switch caused a 911 emergency call system in Orange County, California, to crash for nearly one and a half hours on Saturday. (See item [38](#))

### DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Nuclear Reactors](#), [Materials and Waste](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#); [Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#); [Information Technology](#); [Communications](#); [Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities](#); [Emergency Services](#); [National Monuments and Icons](#)

## Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED,  
Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *August 25, Bloomberg* – (International) **BP says tankers to resume loadings tomorrow from BTC.** Tankers will begin loading oil Tuesday from the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline for the first time since a fire affected the main outlet for Azeri crude to U.S. and European markets almost three weeks ago. Tuesday's start to loadings follows repairs and testing after the pipe was closed on August 5 when an explosion sparked a blaze on the 1,100-mile pipeline. The BTC carries as much as one million barrels of Azeri crude each day through Georgia to Turkey's Mediterranean coast. Azerbaijan sent oil to export via Iran because of the disruption, with Iranian Oil Terminals Co. receiving the first cargo for transit Sunday, according to the Iranian Oil Ministry's news agency,

Shana. The pipeline is pumping at about 70 percent capacity, said a spokesman for Botas International Ltd., BP's Turkish partner. Crude was pumped over the weekend to replenish storage depots at Ceyhan and has now reached sufficient levels, he said.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=ar6IrOYCZGKE&refer=energy>

2. *August 24, Reuters* – (National) **Fay fades, U.S. Gulf oilpatch threat eases.** As the remnant of Tropical Storm Fay poured rain along the U.S. Gulf coast on Sunday, the threat the weather system might disrupt oil, fuel, or natural gas production faded with no reports of problems from energy companies. Chevron Corp., which has a refinery in Pascagoula, Mississippi, closest to the storm, said it continued to monitor Fay's progress. Like Chevron, Exxon Mobil Corp., BP Plc., ConocoPhillips, and Royal Dutch Shell said they were keeping track of the storm, but their operations were not affected. Fay never entered offshore production areas, and U.S. forecasters projected it would remain over land before dissipating completely later this week.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN2427397020080824>

3. *August 24, New York Times* – (National) **Drilling boom revives hopes for natural gas.** American natural gas production is rising at a clip not seen in half a century, pushing down prices of the fuel and reversing conventional wisdom that domestic gas fields were in irreversible decline. The new drilling boom uses advanced technology to release gas trapped in huge shale beds found throughout North America – gas long believed to be out of reach. While the recent production increase is indisputable, not everyone is convinced the additional supplies can last for decades. "The jury is still out how big shale is going to be," said a natural gas analyst at Cambridge Energy Research Associates. Still, many people in the natural-gas industry believe a new era is at hand, and a rising chorus of Wall Street analysts and Congressional lawmakers supports that notion. According to a new report by Navigant Consulting, there could be as much as 842 trillion cubic feet of retrievable gas in shales around the country, enough to supply about 40 years' worth of natural gas, at today's consumption rate. But thousands of wells need to be drilled before the exact reserves will be known. As the frenzy unfolds, some energy experts urge caution in projecting how big the new supplies will be and whether they will alleviate the loss in productivity of conventional wells, particularly those in the Gulf of Mexico. Some industry experts warn that shortages of engineers and rigs, scarcity of pipelines near some shale fields, and fights over land and water use could slow development in some states.

Source:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/25/business/25gas.html?pagewanted=1&r=4&ref=business&adxnlnx=1219673240-rxbg0h6u9RZDEVw%20PS04XQ>

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## **Chemical Industry Sector**

4. *August 25, Galveston County Daily News* – (New Mexico) **Investigators looking for cause of derailment.** Rail cars that left the tracks near Santa Fe were up righted and

lined up in a quickly made field Sunday morning as crews cleaned up and investigators tried to determine what caused a train carrying small amounts of toxic chemicals to derail on Saturday. Santa Fe Fire and Rescue Chief said state Highway 6 reopened about 2:45 a.m. Sunday after being closed for about 10 hours after 12 Union Pacific railcars left the tracks. The derailment happened at a switching station where Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railroad and Union Pacific Railroad tracks merge. People evacuated from their homes were also allowed to return, the official said. While most of the compressed gas tanker cars were classified as empty, two of the derailed cars contained residual amounts of hydrogen fluoride, a chemical that had it leaked and come in contact with water, would have instantly converted into highly toxic hydrofluoric acid. None of the railcars carrying chemicals leaked, the official said. The railroad company will bring in trucks to offload any remaining chemicals in the cars before they are loaded onto flatbeds to be taken back to the rail yard for repairs or are disassembled. Crews from Union Pacific and BNSF were working to repair the quarter of a mile-damaged portion of the track where the derailment happened. The rail line that runs parallel to state Highway 6 is the major artery for rail traffic between the industrial facilities in Freeport, Angleton and Chocolate Bayou and rail yards in Houston. It is also a line that carries trains between Houston and Galveston, Texas. The official said rail officials told him that about \$1 million a day is lost while the line is out of commission. Meanwhile, rail company investigators along with state officials were investigating what caused the derailment. The train was traveling at about 30 mph when the derailment happened, so it is not likely speed was a factor.

Source: <http://galvestondailynews.com/story.lasso?ewcd=8c871804834ee3fb>

5. *August 22, KFOX 14 El Paso* – (Texas) **Hundreds evacuated after chemical spills in East El Paso.** Friday afternoon hazmat crews were called to a chemical spill in east El Paso, Texas. Fire dispatchers confirmed 17 small businesses in the 11400 block of Rojas near Lee Trevino were evacuated as a precaution. A drum of a chlorine-type chemical was in the bed of truck when it may have come into contact with water, causing the chemical to overheat. A UTEP chemist was called out to the scene to evaluate the situation. No injuries were reported.

Source: <http://www.kfoxtv.com/news/17271779/detail.html>

6. *August 22, WTVT 14 Tampa Bay* – (Florida) **Chemical leak forces evacuation.** Hillsborough, Florida, firefighters evacuated Hillsborough County Wastewater Treatment Plant due to a sulfur dioxide leak. Firefighters could only get into the building wearing breathing equipment and hazardous material suits. Officials said the chemical was in a large tank used to de-chlorinate chlorinated water. Sulfur dioxide acts as an acid. Inhalation results in labored breathing, coughing, and/or a sore throat and may cause permanent pulmonary damage. When mixed with water and contacted by skin, frostbite may occur. No injuries were reported.

Source:

<http://www.myfoxtampabay.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=7266916&version=5&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.2.1>

7. *August 22, East Oregonian* – (Oregon) **Depot reports leak of mustard agent.** In

Oregon, a Umatilla Chemical Depot monitoring crew detected trace amounts of HD mustard chemical agent Thursday inside a depot storage structure that houses bulk containers. The workers detected the vapor trace during routine monitoring of the storage structure, or igloo. The vapor likely resulted from a leaking bulk container or ton container, said an Army spokesperson. The igloo's passive filtration system prevents chemical agent vapor from escaping, he said. As a precaution, crews installed a powered filtration system. The leaking container or containers will be identified, inspected, repaired as necessary and decontaminated, he said. Mustard is a blister agent that freezes below 50 degrees Fahrenheit. As aging mustard bulk containers thaw in warmer months, they can leak, he said.

Source:

<http://www.eastoregonian.info/main.asp?SectionID=13&SubSectionID=48&ArticleID=81797&TM=67368.29>

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## **Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector**

8. *August 25, Reuters* – (Florida) **Progress Fla Crystal River reactor shut after trip.** Progress Energy Inc.'s Crystal River 3 nuclear power unit in Florida was shut early Monday after a manual reactor trip on Sunday, according to reports from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The unit had been running at full power early Friday, a previous NRC report said. The company tripped the unit due to feedwater flow oscillations. A condensate pump became uncoupled, lowering condensate flow, the NRC's event report said.  
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN2536805320080825>
9. *August 25, Reuters* – (Florida) **Shut by Fay, FPL Fla St Lucie reactor up to 1 pct.** FPL Group Inc.'s Saint Lucie 1 nuclear unit in Florida, which shut last week due to heavy rain from Tropical Storm Fay, was at one percent power Monday as it began to exit the outage, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) said in its power reactor status report. The unit was manually shut early last week after more than 17 inches of rain from Fay fell in the area and collected in a sump pit, affecting water quality equipment, a spokeswoman said previously. The adjacent Unit 2 was not shut due to the storm and continued to operate at full power on Monday, the NRC report said. Separately, the NRC said in an event report that there was "unanticipated or emergency discharge of waste water or chemical substances" at both units 1 and 2. In addition, Unit 1 had a hydrazine spillage into the storm drain system. The leak was "identified and stopped and the area cleaned," according to the report.  
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN2549662120080825>
10. *August 25, Reuters* – (Florida) **FPL Fla. Turkey Point 4 reactor back at full power.** FPL Group Inc.'s Turkey Point 4 nuclear power unit in Florida was at full power early Monday after exiting a brief outage, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) said in its power reactor status report. The unit was shut August 15 to fix a small leak in a connection between two small pipes leading to a valve used for equipment testing when the unit is off line, a spokesman for the company said previously. The company

said in a report to the NRC that a 0.19 gallon per minute leak developed from a structural weld crack on the charging system (reactor coolant pump seal injection line). Unit 3 continued to operate at full power on Monday, the NRC report said. Unit 3 had been preparing to shut if hurricane force winds from storm Fay reached the plant site. However, Fay remained a Tropical Storm and had weakened to a tropical depression by early Monday over Mississippi.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN2550095220080825?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

11. *August 25, Reuters* – (Nebraska) **OPPD Neb. Fort Calhoun reactor back at full power.** Omaha Public Power District's Fort Calhoun nuclear power unit in Nebraska was back at full power early Monday, up from just nine percent of capacity early Friday, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in its power reactor status report. The unit was taken off line late last week after workers discovered a duct boot that was out of place in the cooling system.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2549277520080825>

12. *August 25, Reuters* – (Washington) **Energy Northwest Wash Columbia reactor up to 60 pct.** The Columbia Generating Station nuclear unit in Washington State was at 60 percent power early Monday after exiting a brief outage, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in its power reactor status report. The unit shut late last week during checks for leaks on its reactor feedwater turbines. The unit had been reduced to allow the checks when low oil pressure caused the full reactor to shut automatically, a company spokesman said previously.

Source: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/oilRpt/idUKN2550131920080825>

13. *August 25, Gannett New Jersey* – (New Jersey) **Oyster Creek may shut over towers.** The owners of the Oyster Creek nuclear power station, now in the middle of a contentious relicensing battle, may close the plant if the government requires the installation of cooling towers, a company document shows. Exelon Corp., Oyster Creek's owner, said the cost of cooling towers could "negatively impact" a decision to keep the oldest commercial nuclear plant running. The statement came last month in an Exelon filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). It is unknown when, or if, such a decision by the company will be made. The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), which has said it wants cooling towers installed, has yet to make a formal demand for a closed-loop cooling water system. A dispute over related federal rules is pending in the courts. Recent estimates for building cooling towers range from \$50 million to \$300 million. But Exelon's SEC filing indicates that "it's very likely" the company will close the plant if cooling towers are required, partly because of operating costs, said a nuclear engineer and director of the Nuclear Safety Project at the nonprofit Union of Concerned Scientists. The DEP is still working on a new draft water intake and discharge permit for Oyster Creek that may require cooling towers. The plant currently uses Barnegat Bay water to cool the reactor. Environmental

activists have urged the DEP to require cooling towers to be built at Oyster Creek, recycling most of the water taken from the bay.

Source:

<http://www.courierpostonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080825/NEWS01/808250343/1006>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

Nothing to report

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

14. *August 25, Sunday Herald* – (International) **Revealed: 8 million victims in the world's biggest cyber heist.** An international criminal gang has pulled off one of the most audacious cyber-crimes ever and stolen the identities of an estimated eight million people in a hacking raid that could ultimately net more than £2.8billion in illegal funds. A Sunday Herald investigation has discovered that late on Thursday night, a previously unknown Indian hacker successfully breached the IT defenses of the Best Western Hotel group's online booking system and sold details of how to access it through an underground network operated by the Russian mafia. It is a move that has been dubbed the greatest cyber-heist in world history. The attack scooped up the personal details of every single customer that has booked into one of Best Western's 1312 continental hotels since 2007. Amounting to a complete identity-theft kit, the stolen data includes a range of private information including home addresses, telephone numbers, credit card details and place of employment. "They've pulled off a masterstroke here," said a security expert, "the Russian gangs who specialize in this kind of work will have been exploiting the information from the moment it became available late on Thursday night. In the wrong hands, there's enough data there to spark a major European crime wave." Although the security breach was closed on Friday after Best Western was alerted by the Sunday Herald, experts fear that information seized in the raid is already being used to pursue a range of criminal strategies.

Source:

[http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2432225.0.revealed\\_8\\_million\\_victims\\_in\\_the\\_worlds\\_biggest\\_cyber\\_heist.php](http://www.sundayherald.com/news/heraldnews/display.var.2432225.0.revealed_8_million_victims_in_the_worlds_biggest_cyber_heist.php)

15. *August 23, State Journal* – (West Virginia) **International phone scam strikes Morgantown.** Authorities are investigating an international phone scam targeting Clear Mountain Bank Customers. Customers of the Morgantown, West Virginia, bank are receiving calls from an automated caller telling them their bank card has been suspended. The call then asks people to enter their card and pin number over the phone. Officials say nearly 20 customers have been hit by the scam so far whose accounts are being withdrawn by con artists in Spain.

Source: <http://www.statejournal.com/story.cfm?func=viewstory&storyid=43009>



16. *August 23, Associated Press* – (National) **Merrill Lynch settlement with SEC worth up to \$7B.** Federal regulators said Friday that investors who bought risky auction-rate securities from Merrill Lynch & Co. before the market for those bonds collapsed will be able to recover up to \$7 billion under a new agreement. The largest U.S. brokerage will buy back the securities from thousands of investors under a settlement with the Securities and Exchange Commission, New York's attorney general and other state regulators over its role in selling the high-risk bonds to retail investors. Under that deal, announced Thursday, Merrill agreed to hasten its voluntary buyback plan by repurchasing \$10 billion to \$12 billion of the securities from investors by January 2. Merrill also agreed to pay a \$125 million fine in a separate accord with state regulators. The SEC's estimate of a \$7 billion recovery is based on its projection of the eventual amount of the bonds that will be cashed in by the affected investors, who bought them before February 13. The \$10 billion to \$12 billion is the total amount that Merrill is committing to buy back. The firm has to offer redemptions to all investors, though not all may cash in the securities. The SEC said the new agreement will enable retail investors, small businesses and charities who purchased the securities from Merrill "to restore their losses and liquidity." Merrill, Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and Deutsche Bank on Thursday brought to eight the number of global banks that have settled a five-month investigation into claims they misled customers into believing the securities were safe.

Source: [http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hAT\\_IBi0flUnKyOGElkzVZ2-gzKQD92NIOQ00](http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hAT_IBi0flUnKyOGElkzVZ2-gzKQD92NIOQ00)

17. *August 22, Consumer Affairs* – (West Virginia) **West Virginia warns about phony debt collectors.** Consumers in West Virginia who at one time obtained payday loans over the Internet – and even those who never borrowed money at all – have been getting threatening phone calls from alleged debt collectors. West Virginia's attorney general says the debt collectors are actually scam artists. Internet payday loans are short-term loans or cash advances, usually for 14 days, made over the Internet via interactive web sites and secured by an agreement authorizing debits of the loan and all fees owed from the consumer's checking account. These loans typically charge interest rates ranging from 600-800 APR and are unlawful in West Virginia. The scam artists, who speak English with a foreign accent, call themselves "U.S. National Bank," "Federal Investigation Bureau," "United Legal Processing" and numerous other phony names. They refuse to disclose real names and addresses and are believed to be operating "off the grid" from homes, automobiles, or from off shore locations or foreign countries, including India. Since the scammers have kept themselves purposely well hidden, the official says no law enforcement agencies have succeeded in locating or shutting them down. The scammers typically pose as law enforcement officers, investigators, lawyers, and bankers and threaten consumers that they will be arrested for "bank fraud" or other fictitious crimes unless money is wired immediately. The scammers almost always call consumers at work several times a day, and tell their supervisors, "Your employee has committed fraud and is about to be arrested." Such threats have proven unsettling even to the most savvy consumers and employers who suspect the calls are fraudulent.

Source: [http://www.consumeraffairs.com/news04/2008/08/wva\\_debt\\_scam.html](http://www.consumeraffairs.com/news04/2008/08/wva_debt_scam.html)

## **Transportation Sector**

18. *August 25, WNBC 4 New York* – (New York) **Unmanned drone on L.I. sparks terror investigation.** An unmanned drone being built by an engineer on Long Island sparked a large counter-terrorism investigation across the New York area, officials tell WNBC.com. Police said they had stumbled upon overnight testing of the drone at a little-used airstrip in Calverton, Long Island. The investigation began in February of last year, when investigators first learned testing of the drone was underway. Officials said the drone was being designed to carry more than 600 pounds of explosives. “It could be in the air for 8-10 hours and there’s potential harm if it is carrying a large amount of toxic material,” an NYPD Commissioner said in explaining why his department’s counterterrorism officials were concerned. Police surveillance video obtained by News 4 New York shows a white van rolling onto the tarmac, a small group of men jumping out and ground testing the unmanned flight vehicle. The NYPD official said the engineer building the drone never reported his work to any agency including the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) or local authorities. Investigators said concern increased for a time when they learned the man behind the project was an Egyptian national who had entered the U.S. on a Sudanese passport. NYPD officials worked with Suffolk County police and the FBI to determine there were no ties to terror. Under questioning, the engineer said he was an inventor hoping to sell this drone model to the U.S. military. Police said there is no evidence any laws were broken as the drone was tested on the ground. Officials said if it had gone into the air without prior FAA approval, it could have been considered a crime. While there are no terror links, police said their investigation continues.

Source: <http://www.wnbc.com/news/17266645/detail.html>

19. *August 23, KOCO 5 Oklahoma City* – (Oklahoma) **Derailment, explosions send fire, smoke into Okla. Sky.** Crews with Burlington Northern-Santa Fe (BNSF) will soon begin the process of cleaning up after a train derailment Friday afternoon near Luther, Oklahoma, that resulted in explosions and sent a massive plume of smoke into the central Oklahoma sky. The BNSF train, carrying crude oil and ethanol, derailed sending a giant fireball into the sky and forcing evacuations within a half-mile of the area. The track is owned by the state of Oklahoma but operated by the Stillwater Central Railroad, said a BNSF spokesman. Hazmat crews from Edmond and Oklahoma City flocked to the scene Friday afternoon, as did firefighting teams from Wellston, Hickory Hills, Midwest City and authorities from Oklahoma County. The train was southbound to Temple, Texas, from Tulsa, the official said. There were multiple explosions after the derailment, and flames neared but never ignited an oil pump in the area.

Source: <http://www.koco.com/news/17268024/detail.html>

20. *August 23, Associated Press* – (California) **Chicago-bound United plane makes emergency landing.** A Chicago-bound United Airlines flight carrying 240 passengers and nine crew members landed safely after the plane ran into engine trouble early Saturday. A United spokeswoman says flight 158 was forced to return to San Francisco International Airport about 30 minutes after takeoff after one of its engine compressors



stalled. No one was injured during the incident. The official says smoke came into the cabin after the plane landed and the engines were shut down. The airline is investigating the source of the smoke.

Source: <http://www.wrex.com/Global/story.asp?S=8889768>

21. *August 23, Citizens Voice* – (Pennsylvania) **Cleveland-to-New York flight makes emergency landing.** A connecting Comair flight traveling from Cleveland to New York City made an emergency landing Friday about 5 p.m. at the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport in Avoca, Pennsylvania. One of the plane's two engines had to be shut down while the plane was in flight, forcing the plane to land at the nearest airport, according to an airline spokeswoman. Crew members shut off the engine after an engine warning light came on in the cockpit, said a spokeswoman for Comair. The cause of the engine malfunction was not immediately known, she said.

Source:

[http://www.citizensvoice.com/articles/2008/08/23/news/wb\\_voice.20080823.t.pg10.cv23cdlanding\\_sl.1899148\\_top3.txt](http://www.citizensvoice.com/articles/2008/08/23/news/wb_voice.20080823.t.pg10.cv23cdlanding_sl.1899148_top3.txt)

22. *August 23, Associated Press* – (National) **NTSB: FAA needs faster progress on runway safety.** Officials, who made safety recommendations after a plane crash that killed 49 people, criticized the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on Friday for not implementing two of them fast enough. In a letter obtained by the Associated Press, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Chairman told FAA's acting administrator there has been "unacceptable response" to two suggestions about runway checks. Comair flight 5191 crashed after trying to take off from the wrong runway at Lexington's airport — a general aviation strip too short for commercial jets. NTSB cited the pilots' failure to notice clues they were on the wrong runway as the primary cause of the accident. The NTSB recommended numerous changes after the accident, including a new rule requiring pilots to confirm their runway location before takeoff and another that would only allow air traffic controllers to clear a plane for takeoff after it had crossed all runway intersections. But a FAA spokeswoman said the agency recently approved the regulations the NTSB official is seeking and is just waiting for them to be published. A NTSB board member who investigated the Lexington crash, said in an interview that aviation regulations can take months if not years to change, even after they are published. She said NTSB has not received any document indicating improvements are imminent.

Source:

[http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5ictlrhfwotzb\\_FHoiui17\\_bLImpgD92NK8HG0](http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5ictlrhfwotzb_FHoiui17_bLImpgD92NK8HG0)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

23. *August 25, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (Texas) **Surface contamination at Lufthansa cargo facility.** On August 18, the State of Texas received a call requesting that the State call Lufthansa Cargo at DFW Airport. Upon the State contacting the cargo facility, they learned that customs had been at their facility and had found a spot on their concrete floor reading 132 microrem. The area had been used to store a container from

Protechnics out of Houston, Texas. The package had originated from Spectro Services in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The package had been sent on to Germany on August 14. The radionuclide was identified as Iridium-192 by the Dallas Fort Worth Fire Department. The area is currently roped off and posted no entry. A decontamination service was scheduled to decontaminate the area August 18 in the afternoon. Contamination appeared to be in the form of dust. Several packages were in the contaminated area and were decontaminated prior to releasing for shipment. The shipper stated that they had surveyed the location in Houston where the package was stored waiting to be sent to Dallas/Fort Worth and found no direct readings above background. Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2008/20080825en.html#en44427>

24. *August 22, Bucks County Courier Times* – (Pennsylvania) **FBI seeks information in mailbox explosions.** The U.S. Postal Inspection Service is offering a \$10,000 reward to find those responsible for blowing up mailboxes in Plumstead and Tinicum, Pennsylvania. “We take these matters very serious,” said a postal inspector. “We want the community to know that the mail is safe.” In both cases, the mailboxes were significantly damaged, but no one was injured. The postal inspection service is working with the local police departments. These most recent incidents follow a months-long string of mailbox explosions that began this spring, when two 12-year-old boys were arrested in connection with a blown-up mailbox in Horsham. Earlier this summer, home-made bottle bombs were placed in three Warwick mailboxes. Two of the boxes were destroyed; in the other, the bottle bomb never detonated because the chemical leaked out. Source: <http://www.phillyburbs.com/pb-dyn/news/111-08222008-1580341.html>
25. *August 22, WWNY 7 Watertown* – (New York) **Suspicious powder found in envelope at St. Lawrence County residence.** A St. Lawrence County, New York, HazMat team and federal postal officials responded to a call of a suspicious white powder in an envelope at a Norfolk residence. The white powdery substance was found in an envelope inside a mailbox at the residence. The Office of Emergency Services’ interim director says the county’s HazMat team was called in as operational protocol, adding that officials feel it is better to “err on the side of caution.” No one needed medical attention for exposure to the substance. Source: <http://www.wwnytv.net/index.php/2008/08/22/suspicious-powder-found-in-envelope-at-st-lawrence-county-residence/>

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

26. *August 25, Chicago Tribune* – (National) **Irradiation step doesn’t quiet debate on FDA moves.** Zapping spinach and iceberg lettuce with a tiny shot of radiation is an effective way to prevent deadly outbreaks of E. coli, according to the U.S Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which says it is safe. But not everyone agrees. “It’s the latest in a series of PR moves designed to mislead the public from the fact that the government is asleep at the wheel here,” said the national director of the Organic

Consumers Association, an organic food watchdog group. The president of the American Meat Institute Foundation, which favors irradiation of food, holds a different view. “Any group that is opposed to a proven, safe technology that enhances food safety is misguided,” he said. The FDA’s irradiation decision is the latest attempt to find a technical fix to what has become a near-epidemic food safety problem. Irradiated meat is hard to find in most stores. Some imported produce is irradiated, as are some spices. Irradiated food has to carry a label explaining that it was treated. Opponents argue that irradiation reduces vitamin levels and alters the makeup of foods. They also suggest irradiation will allow food manufacturers to cut corners on other required food safety measures, because irradiation might be perceived as a more effective food safety measure.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-irradiateaug25,0,2630975.story>

27. *August 25, Feedstuffs* – (National) **US push for livestock supplement regulations.** The growing use of animal dietary supplements is raising concerns in the United States, including fears about the safety of specific supplements and the approaches taken to determine their safeness. A new U.S. National Research Council report, requested by the Food and Drug Administration’s Center for Veterinary Medicine, assesses whether the addition of three dietary supplements – lutein, evening primrose oil, and garlic – to the diets of horses, dogs, or cats may cause significant adverse health effects. The committee that wrote the report said because of inadequate data, it could not clearly define a safe upper limit for lutein, evening primrose oil, or garlic, but it could cite historical safe intakes and estimate presumed safe intakes based on available research findings. The committee added that current regulations addressing animal dietary supplements are in “disarray”. The report stressed that clear and precise regulations need to be established so “only safe animal dietary supplements are allowed on the market.”

Source: <http://sl.farmonline.com.au/news/nationalrural/livestock/news/us-push-for-livestock-supplement-regulations/1252754.aspx>

28. *August 25, Bloomberg* – (National; International) **U.S. to assign safety inspectors to Chinese cities in October.** The U.S. will station inspectors in three Chinese cities to scrutinize exports to the world’s largest economy, responding to concerns over the safety of China-produced food, toys, and pharmaceutical ingredients. Up to 15 inspectors will be assigned to Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou from October, the U.S. secretary of Health and Human Services said in an interview. China agreed in December 2007 to let the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) establish China offices, among the agreements reached in its Strategic Economic Dialogue with the U.S. In June, the president increased the FDA’s budget by \$275 million for the fiscal year starting October 1 to finance inspections of overseas plants that produce food and medicine for export.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601080&sid=aVzomUtkEORg&refer=asia>

## Water Sector

29. *August 25, Mineweb* – (Alaska) **Alaskans vote on anti-Pebble copper/gold project, clean water ballot measure.** On Tuesday, Alaskans will vote on Ballot Measure 4, the Clean Water Initiative, aimed ultimately at the massive Pebble project. Alaska's governor has spoken out against Ballot Measure 4, while the State Department of Natural Resources launched a website, which the Alaska Public Offices Commission ordered retooled to present a fairer picture of both sides of the initiative. State officials say that the language of Ballot Measure 4 duplicates existing regulations. The owner of Bristol Bay lodge filed a complaint with the Alaska Public Offices Commission last week, arguing the site violated campaign disclosure laws by distributing anti-Ballot Measure 4 information. Previously the Bristol Bay lodge owner has argued that if Ballot Measure 4 is approved Tuesday, it "will create tough new clean water standards that will help protect Bristol Bay. It will not shut down existing mines – just protect salmon spawning habitats." The campaign manager for Alaskans for Clean Water, which supports the initiative, said supporters are campaigning door-to-door across Alaska to spread the word.

Source:

<http://www.mineweb.co.za/mineweb/view/mineweb/en/page68?oid=60612&sn=Detail>

30. *August 25, Times-Shamrock* – (Pennsylvania) **Dealing with the dirty water.** The problem of how to handle millions of gallons of wastewater is one of the biggest challenges emerging in the rush to extract natural gas from the Marcellus Shale. Hydraulic fracturing is the key to harvesting the natural gas trapped in the rock. It is one of the operations' largest costs, both environmentally and economically. Before gas can flow from the wells, the water laden with salt, metals, acid, and natural radioactivity must be pulled back to the surface and dealt with. There are currently five facilities in Pennsylvania specifically designed to treat such industrial wastewater. The closest is 244 miles from the heart of northeast Pennsylvania drilling in Susquehanna County. Few northeast municipal wastewater treatment facilities can handle the water, and the state Department of Environmental Protection warned all of them in May that they must get approval before accepting the waste. Treatment of the wastewater is necessary because of how toxic it is. To help fracture the shale, gas operators add chemicals and acids to the water. As the water flows through the rock, it gathers salt, metals, and natural radioactivity. When it comes to the surface, it can be eight to ten times saltier than ocean water. The Penn State School of Forest Resources released a water guide for landowners, noting that gas well brines – a term for the wastewater – "contain levels of some pollutants that are far above levels considered safe for drinking water supplies" and added that "even small amounts of brine pollution can result in significant impacts to drinking water supplies."

Source:

[http://www.thedailyreview.com/articles/2008/08/25/news/tw\\_review.20080825.a.pg1.tw25gas\\_sl.1901810\\_loc.txt](http://www.thedailyreview.com/articles/2008/08/25/news/tw_review.20080825.a.pg1.tw25gas_sl.1901810_loc.txt)

31. *August 25, Cape Coral Daily Breeze* – (Florida) **Vandals cause oil spill in Fort Myers.** Monday morning the Fort Myers, Florida, Police Department responded to a past-

occurred burglary at the Firestone Garage. Upon arriving to work, an employee discovered that someone broke into the business overnight, gained entry into the garage, and intentionally drained the oil from storage tanks. Two hundred gallons of oil seeped out of the garage into the parking lot and into the storm drain. Officers immediately notified the Fort Myers Fire Department (FMFD). According to a spokeswoman, firefighters arrived on scene and began following the oil in the drainage system. They installed double booms, or floating barriers, in three locations to prevent the oil from going into the river. FMFD deemed the oil leak under control at 10:45 a.m.

Source: [http://www.cape-coral-daily-breeze.com/breaking\\_news/articles.asp?articleID=20930](http://www.cape-coral-daily-breeze.com/breaking_news/articles.asp?articleID=20930)

32. *August 24, Myrtle Beach Sun News* – (South Carolina) **AVX's past full of toxin releases.** South Carolina health regulators will consider installing an air monitor near AVX Corp. to ease residents' concerns about that company's proposal to emit hazardous toluene vapors, but AVX for decades has been emitting other dangerous chemicals into the air and has discharged tainted water into a swash that empties into the Atlantic Ocean. The company also has dumped groundwater containing trichloroethylene and vinyl chloride – sometimes at levels far exceeding the Environmental Protection Agency's safe standards – into Withers Swash since 1999, according to a permit issued by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. The air and water discharges are in addition to groundwater contaminated with high levels of trichloroethylene, or TCE, that has spread from the AVX facility to a roughly ten-block area north of the electronics manufacturer. The groundwater contamination has put a focus on AVX's environmental record, bringing to light additional decades-long chemical discharges into the neighborhood's air and water as the manufacturer seeks permission to add toluene emissions to its list.

Source: <http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/news/local/story/566796.html>

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

33. *August 23, Nhan Dhan* – (International) **Vietnam-made bird flu vaccine proves effective.** The first human testing stage has proven the effectiveness of a locally-produced H5N1 influenza vaccine. The result was reported at a working session between the Health Ministry's Science and Training Department and the Military Medical Institute 103 on August 21. The head of the institute's Epidemiology Department said that 30 volunteer students from the institute had been reported having no serious side-effects three months after they received the second shot of Fluvax vaccine. The students have also developed good immunity, he added. Fluvax vaccine is expected to be put into mass production by late 2009.

Source: [http://www.nhandan.com.vn/english/life/230808/development\\_vnm.htm](http://www.nhandan.com.vn/english/life/230808/development_vnm.htm)

34. *August 22, Vermont Public Radio* – (Vermont) **MRSA infections on the rise in Vermont.** Aggressive, antibiotic-resistant infections have been a problem in hospitals for decades. But in recent years they've been occurring more and more in non-hospital settings. Health officials say the main offender in Vermont communities is a strain of

staph infection known as MRSA. While Vermont does not keep track of the number of MRSA infections, indications are they are on the rise. Last fall Vermont saw two much publicized outbreaks: one that was linked to an unlicensed tattoo parlor and another in the Southern Vermont Correctional Center. It's also been associated with sports teams and locker rooms. Once contracted, the infections may spread to other family members. Health officials expect them to become more prevalent as pathogens develop resistance to more and more drugs.

Source: [http://www.vpr.net/news\\_detail/81811/](http://www.vpr.net/news_detail/81811/)

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

35. *August 25, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (Wisconsin) **Fire in research laboratory.** On the afternoon of August 19, Department of Health Services staff became aware a fire had occurred at a licensee facility the previous evening. Reports indicated the local fire department and hazardous materials teams had responded to a fire in a molecular biology lab on the campus of the University of Wisconsin – Madison. The fire was extinguished within 15 minutes. Reports also indicated the Hazardous Incident Team used instruments to rule out the presence of any radioactive materials. Although no contamination was detected, fire equipment was rinsed with water to remove any residue from the fire.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2008/20080825en.html#en44429>

36. *August 22, Georgetown News-Graphic* – (Kentucky) **Suspicious call causes City Hall to evacuate.** Georgetown, Kentucky, City Hall employees and patrons were evacuated from the building late Thursday morning after someone placed a suspicious and possibly threatening phone call. A human resources specialist was speaking with the Georgetown Police chief in her office when she received a phone call from someone with a foreign accent who said, "Get out of the building," and then hung up. "The caller did not say there was a bomb in the building or threaten anyone's life," the specialist said. "The building was immediately evacuated, and neighboring businesses were informed of the threat."

Source:

<http://www.georgetownnews.com/articles/2008/08/22/news/doc48ae31d3bf22b822344813.txt>

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## **Emergency Services Sector**

37. *August 24, WBOY 12 Clarksburg* – (West Virginia) **911 phone lines out of service.** The Monongalia County, West Virginia, 911 center was out of service for about an hour Saturday morning. To alert residents to the problem, a county wide emergency notification was sent out around 5:15 am to over six thousand phones. The message gave residents an alternate phone number to call and report an emergency during the



outage. MECCA officials say they wanted to let people know before there was an emergency, rather than calling 911 and not getting an answer. The phone line was restored in about an hour. Verizon is still unsure of what caused the outage.

Source: <http://www.wboy.com/story.cfm?func=viewstory&storyid=43033>

38. *August 23, KNSD 7 San Diego* – (California) **Area code switch causes OC 911 system to crash.** A 911 emergency call system in Orange County (OC) is up and running again after an area code switch caused it to crash for nearly 1 1/2 hours. The system went off-line around 2:30 a.m. Saturday in an area of the central and southern county that includes about 20 cities, a police spokesman said. During that time, people could only reach dispatchers by calling the sheriff's regular business numbers. The introduction of a new area code apparently caused the crash, and service was restored after the Sheriff's Department called AT&T to fix the problem.

Source: <http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/17275444/detail.html>

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## **Information Technology**

39. *August 22, Network World* – (National) **Red Hat admits breach of its servers, Fedora.** Red Hat confirmed Friday that hackers compromised infrastructure servers belonging to the company and the Fedora Project, including systems used to sign Fedora packages. In the Fedora breach, company officials said they had "high confidence" the hackers did not get the "passphrase used to secure the Fedora package signing key." Regardless, the company has converted to new Fedora signing keys. Red Hat's Fedora project leader made the announcement Friday on the fedora-announce-list with the subject line "Infrastructure Report." When contacted, Red Hat officials pointed to the project leader's announcements as the company's official statement. As a precaution, Red Hat released an updated version of those packages, a list of tampered packages and a script to check if any of the packages are installed on a user's system.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9113299&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc\\_top](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9113299&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top)

40. *August 22, Computerworld* – (National) **Microsoft admits posting flawed update.** Microsoft Corp. rereleased one of its August 11 security updates, explaining that it had posted an incomplete version to its own download center last week. The admission was the third time in the past two months that Microsoft has had to reissue a security-related update. Users who manually downloaded MS08-051 since August 12 to patch Office 2003 should obtain the second version as soon as possible, Microsoft said. People who obtained the update via Windows Update or through their company's Windows Server Update Services (WSUS) server, or who updated other versions of Office do not need to reinstall MS08-051. That update patched three vulnerabilities in PowerPoint, the presentation maker included with Microsoft Office, including one that Microsoft labeled "critical," its highest ranking. MS08-051 was one of 11 security bulletins released last week that patched 26 bugs, the most Microsoft has tackled in a single month for the past year and a half.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9113260&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc\\_top](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9113260&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top)

### Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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## Communications Sector

41. *August 25, United Press International* – (Virginia) **NASA investigates failed rocket launch.** The U.S. space agency and Alliant Tech Systems Inc. said they have started an investigation into the failed launch of a suborbital rocket. The rocket, which lifted off from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia, was carrying two NASA hypersonic experiments. Liftoff occurred at 5:10 a.m. EDT Friday and the anomaly that forced launch safety officers to destroy the rocket occurred approximately 27 seconds later. No injuries or property damage were reported, with most of the debris falling into the Atlantic Ocean.  
Source: [http://www.upi.com/Science\\_News/2008/08/25/NASA\\_investigates\\_failed\\_rocket\\_launch/UPI-75401219670168/](http://www.upi.com/Science_News/2008/08/25/NASA_investigates_failed_rocket_launch/UPI-75401219670168/)
42. *August 24, Associated Press* – (Virginia) **Even modest Internet users may hit usage caps.** Frontier Communications Corp. is one of several Internet service providers moving to curb the growth of traffic on their networks, or at least make the subscribers who download the most pay more. This could have consequences not just for consumers - who would have to learn to watch how much data their Internet use entails - but also for companies that hope to make the Internet a conduit for movies and other content that comes in huge files. Cable companies have been at the forefront of imposing and talking about usage caps, because their lines are shared between households. Frontier's announcement is noteworthy because it is a phone company - and it is matching a seemingly low ceiling set by a main cable rival: just five GB per month, the equivalent of about three DVD-quality movies.  
Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/08/23/BU6I12GMQQ.DTL>
43. *August 22, Crain's New York Business* – (New York) **Static develops for Verizon's FiOS.** The New York State Public Commission Service recently notified Verizon Communications that the fiber-optic cable system that has been installed in some areas of the state violates provisions in the National Electric Code. The fiber is used to deliver Verizon's FiOS television and high-speed Internet service to homes. The violations involve the proper grounding of cable and were discovered during routine inspections by

the state agency earlier this summer. Verizon has spent more than \$2 billion to build out its new network across the nation. “We are working closely with Verizon to remediate any potential problems,” said a PSC spokesman. Verizon sent a plan to the PSC last month outlining steps it will take to correct any violations. The company plans to inspect previous installations and fix problems within 60 days.

Source:

<http://www.crainsnewyork.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080822/FREE/50594/1064>

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

44. *August 24, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **Man arrested with weapons at Pelosi’s Denver hotel.** The speaker of the House of Representatives was briefly evacuated from her downtown Denver hotel on Saturday when a man carrying two hunting rifles and two pistols tried to check in to the hotel. A Secret Service spokesman said a 29-year-old man of Pinedale, Wyoming, faces a charge of unlawful carrying of a weapon after police officers at the Grand Hyatt hotel noticed him carrying a rifle-type case while checking in. The man did not have a concealed weapons permit, said a spokesman for the Colorado Department of Public Safety.

Source: <http://elections.foxnews.com/2008/08/24/man-arrested-with-weapons-at-pelosis-denver-hotel/>

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## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

45. *August 25, Gannett Tennessee* – (Tennessee) **Cocke County wildfire now more than 1,000 acres.** Authorities say a wildfire in Cocke County is expected to continue expanding. The U.S. Forest Service estimates around 1,150 acres have burned. Right now it is about 20 percent contained and firefighters are close to completing fire lines to contain the rest. They also expect to set back burns to reduce the fuel for the fire. The fire started on private land and has burned into the Cherokee National Forest.

Source:

<http://www.tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080825/NEWS01/80825006/1006>

46. *August 24, Billings Gazette* – (Montana) **Pipe bomb found at Lake Elmo State Park.** Part of Lake Elmo State Park in Montana was evacuated Sunday after a visitor found what appeared to be a pipe bomb. At about 1:20 p.m., the Billings police bomb squad responded to the scene to find a foot-long, thick metal pipe, capped at both ends with a fuse coming from one end. The bomb was moved by a robot and the end off the pipe was blasted off, which rendered it safe for handling. Inside the pipe, officers found an unknown powder.

Source: <http://www.billingsgazette.net/articles/2008/08/24/news/local/33-bomb.txt>

## **Dams Sector**

47. *August 23, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **New Orleans repeating deadly levee mistakes.** In a yearlong review of levee work in New Orleans, Louisiana, the Associated Press has tracked a pattern of public misperception, political jockeying, and legal fighting, along with economic and engineering miscalculations since Katrina, that threaten to make New Orleans the scene of another devastating flood. Dozens of interviews with engineers, historians, policymakers, and flood zone residents confirmed many have not learned from public policy mistakes made after Hurricane Betsy in 1965, which set the stage for Katrina; many mistakes are being repeated. A recent University of New Orleans survey of residents found concern about levee safety was dropping off the list of top worries, replaced by crime, incompetent leadership, and corruption. When and if the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers finishes \$14.8 billion in post-Katrina work, the city will have limited protection.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/26365406/>

48. *August 23, Times of Trenton* – (New Jersey) **State pushing for dam repairs.** In the wake of dam failures that have caused damaging floods in New Jersey, a state agency is asking a court to force a Mercer County group and residents living near two Hopewell Township dams to repair the structures. The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) contends Hunts Lake dam and Honey Lake dam in Elm Ridge Park are “high-hazard” structures that would cause significant damage to homes and businesses if they failed. While both dams are deemed safe at the moment, the DEP alleges the Mercer County Soil Conservation District and ten residents who live next to the dams have not made repairs required by the Dam Safety Act. In a lawsuit filed earlier this month, the DEP asked for an injunction ordering the defendants to comply with its orders and to impose a civil fine of \$10,000 per day for each day the defendants fail to take action. In response, a spokesman for the district said the dams are not dangerous. The DEP suit comes after years of wrangling over the dams, which are earthen structures built in the early 1960s on tributaries of the Stony Brook. A cost estimate for repairs to the dams has not yet been drawn up, said a spokesman for the Attorney General’s Office, which filed the suit on behalf of the DEP. However, for Honey Lake, a study must be done to determine whether the spillway is adequate to allow sufficient water to flow through the dam. The DEP also recently filed suits involving nine other dams around the state, the spokesman said.

Source: <http://www.nj.com/news/times/index.ssf?/base/news-5/121946431758570.xml&coll=5>

49. *August 23, Free Lance-Star* – (Virginia) **State says LOW’s dam repair plan insufficient.** Virginia officials have rejected several plans and processes proposed by Lake of the Woods (LOW) that might have justified a lower standard for the dam on the Orange County subdivision’s main lake. The Department of Conservation and Recreation spokesman said Division of Dam Safety staff analyzed and found unacceptable LOW’s proposal for a reduced spillway capacity and an evacuation plan for people in the inundation zone of the dam. The state Soil and Water Conservation

Board will meet September 24 and 25 and is expected to vote on LOW's plans to refit the existing spillway with a hydraulic gate.

Source: <http://fredericksburg.com/News/FLS/2008/082008/08232008/405037>

50. *August 22, Cherry Hill Courier-Post* – (New Jersey) **Authority OKs pact to help Repaupo Creek flood control.** In New Jersey, members of Gloucester County's Improvement Authority approved a contract Thursday to rebuild floodgates on the Repaupo Creek, a move intended to keep high water away from low-lying properties. The floodgates, which hug 4.5 miles of shoreline in Greenwich and Logan, are the most notable of more than 35 earthen levees in the county. "Many people don't realize that the floodgates and levee were constructed in colonial times," said the county Freeholder-Director. "The repair and replacement of the gates has been a critical public safety issue for decades, but nobody would take responsibility to fix the situation." The issue's neglect has resulted in a patchwork of deteriorating earthworks and flood-control gates, according to the South Jersey Resource Conservation and Development Council. The plan is to repair the flood gates and rebuild 900 feet of levee, said the authority's administrator.

Source:

<http://www.courierpostonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080822/NEWS01/808220363/1006>

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